

RussianAdventures



BAIKAL tour 2004

june

13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27						



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Day 1
13 June
Arrival in Moscow. Transfer to the hotel. Short sightseeing tour in Moscow.
Dinner at the restaurant.

Day 2
14 June
Breakfast at the hotel.
Visit to the Red Square, the Kremlin and 2 museums (self-paying). Lunch in the city.
Transfer to the Airport, departure to Irkutsk.
Overnight flight to Irkutsk takes 6 hrs

Day 3
15 June
Arrival in Irkutsk.
Breakfast. Short bus city excursion around the city.
Transfer (3 hrs, 120 km) to Sludyanka settlement on Baikal Southern coast. Accommodation at lodge. Lunch.
Excursion to Baikal Museum of Minerals and Stones.
This is a private museum founded by famous local geologist Valery Zhigalov. The museum was founded after Perestroika times. Its collection consists of 8960 pieces.
Steam-bath, rest and sleep.

Day 4
16 June
Breakfast at the lodge. Walking about Sludyanka.
Lunch.
Ancient railroad excursion along Baikal coast.
This railroad is a part of the Trans-Siberian railway. Its construction started in 1981. In the beginning the railway went up to the Angara river-head, and ferry-boats with the help of ice-breakers took trains to the Baikal Southern-East coast.
The demand of goods to the Russian Far-East (especially before the Russian-Japan War from 1904-1905) brought about the construction of the Krugo-Baikalsky (Around Baikal) railroad in 1902. The expenses and intensity of this construction are still considered unique but the result is the one of most beautiful railroads in the whole world.
Unfortunately it is now out of use now because of the construction in 1957 of the Irkutsk Dam which increased the water level by 7 meters. As a result the part of the railroad which went near Angara River was found underwater; thus a new shortcut had to be constructed and the Baikal coast part became an open air museum. The length of it is 90 km (55 miles). This excursion duration is about 4 hours.
Arrival at Port-Baikal settlement. Accommodation in local lodge.
One hour walk to ancient lighthouse (1 hour), optional.
Steam-bath.



Day 5
17 June
Ferry-boat transfer to right bank of Angara River.
The Angara River flows out of Baikal Lake; its river-head is the widest in the world at 863 meters.
Baikal Lake excursion (1 - 1.5 hrs).
Local souvenirs shopping. Lunch.
Cutter transfer to Peschanaya (Sand) Bay (about 6 hrs).
Night in tents.



Day 6
18 June

Excursion to old empty GULAG prison camp used to mine gold in 1940's by prison labour.



Day 7
19 June

Cutter transfer to Olkhon Island (about 6 hrs).
Accommodation in local lodge at Huzhir settlement. Lunch.
Free time. Walking around Huzhir and along Baikal Lake coast.
Olkhon Island is the biggest in Baikal. It is located near the deepest point of 1737 m.
This place is sacred for Buryats (local aboriginal nation) and is steeped in legend. Many tales tell of a ghost who inhabited the area. One of the most famous, Khan-Shubunoyon, a ghost of Baikal is incarnated in a white-headed golden eagle (berkut). It is the reason for Buryats living in Olkhon to honour all Olkhon berkuts. The strait which separated Olkhon and mainland is named Maloye More (Small Sea). It is rather shallow water but is warm in summers, and so full of fish. Most of the population here are fishermen.

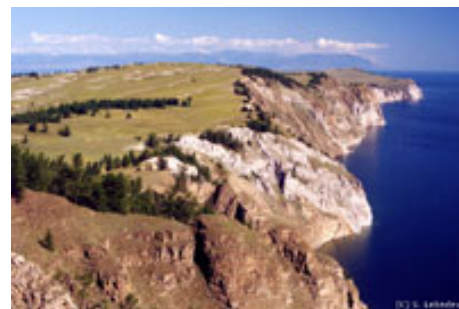


Day 8
20 June

Breakfast.
Museum of local lore excursion.
Burkhan Rock excursion.
Burkhan Rock is a sacred place of the Buryats, the local aboriginal nation, one of nine main sacred places in Central Asia.
Lunch.
Bus transfer (1 hr) to Uzury Bay. Local hikes and sightseeing.
Night in tents.

Day 9
21 June

Walk excursion to Hoboy Cape (whole day, about 25 km).



Day 10
22 June

Reserve Day.

Day 11
23 June

Bus transfer to Irkutsk (10hrs).
Hotel accommodation.
Arrive in Irkutsk, accommodation at a local hotel.
Dinner at the restaurant is a celebration dinner with all staff.

Day 12

24 June

Transfer to airport.
Departure to Moscow.
Transfer to the Moscow hotel.
Farewell dinner at the restaurant.

Day 13

25 June

Some clients leave to Sheremetevo airport for home.
Remaining clients for Excursions in Moscow.
Dinner in Moscow. Self paid. Restaurant - \$50, cafe - \$10

Days 14

26 June

Moscow excursion - as day before.
Dinner in town, self paid.

Day 15

27 June

Early breakfast
Airport Sheremetevo transfer.
Departure to UK or Ireland.
